

The purpose of this bill is to allow the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with State, local, educational, and Tribal experts to restore and protect these lands from the effects of invasive plant species. The goal of this legislation is to allow the National Park Service to work with those who are best able to remove these species before they enter federal units, putting the National Park Service into a better position to preserve our native species.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this important bill.

HONORING GORDON AND ANITA MURCHIE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINE INDUSTRY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to two very good friends and fellow Californians, Gordon and Anita Murchie. On the 14th of August, 1955, in the midst of family and friends, Gordon and Anita were married in the Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara. Both had attended college at University of California at Santa Barbara. As a lifelong ambition, Gordon wanted to join the U.S. Diplomatic Service; thus, when a recruiter from the U.S. Information Agency arrived on the University of Southern California's campus where Gordon was attending graduate school, Gordon was one of the first to be interviewed. Following a quick trip to Washington, D.C. to take the language and written exam for USIA, he subsequently was offered a Foreign Service appointment.

The Murchies moved to Washington, D.C., in early 1958 as new members of that year's junior Foreign Service family. Before year's end, Gordon and Anita began their long string of Foreign Service postings, first in the Philippines, then Indonesia, and on to Thailand, where they spent the next 9 years equally divided between Udorn, in the northeast of the country, and Bangkok, the capital city.

Having learned the Thai language up-country, they both have served as interpreters, Gordon for President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey, and Anita for Lady Bird Johnson, Mrs. Joan Kennedy, Mrs. Stan Getz, and other American political and cultural representatives visiting Thailand. For his service to Thailand, he was awarded the Royal Order of the White Elephant medal by the King.

Returning to the U.S. in late 1969, Gordon attended, on government assignment, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Massachusetts where he earned a Master's Degree in International Law and Public Diplomacy. Returning to Washington, D.C., the Murchies, now with two young children, resided in the Alexandria area of northern Virginia and Anita was completing her Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology.

With things heating up in Central America, the Murchies were reassigned to the U.S. Embassy in San José, Costa Rica, for the next 4 years. Again, working as a team, they immersed themselves in the Costa Rican community and the political, economic and cultural issues of the region. While there, Anita authored the only book to comprehensively re-

search and relate the story of the Anglo-American contributions to Costa Rica from the period of Independence, 1824, to the end of that century, entitled *Imported Spices*. Gordon served as the Public Affairs Attaché at the Embassy. Gordon's last overseas assignment was as an advisor to the U.S. military in northern Iraq to establish a safe zone for the Kurds in 1991.

Having received two Superior Service Medals during his 35 years of government service, Gordon retired in 1993. Upon retirement, Gordon and Anita were asked to take on the management of the Virginia-based organization as President and Executive Secretary, which they have continued to administer to the present day. In recognition of their contributions to the growth of the Virginia wine industry, Gordon was presented the first Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Gordon is also credited with promoting a renewed public interest in the evolution of viticulture and enology in America, from 1607 Jamestown to the present day. For the past 9 years, he has served as the wine consultant to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which conducts annual wine and history events.

The Murchies remain active participants in the support of the growth and development of the U.S. wine industry, as a whole, with particular attention to the rapid growth of the wine industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a team, the Murchies are well known in the American wine industry, on Capitol Hill, and in a number of foreign communities abroad. As Gordon says of their partnership through life, he would never have been able to realize his career dreams if it had not been for the above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty support of Anita.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I wish to commend and recognize the contributions of the Murchies for their lifelong work in promoting the American way of life and the democratic principles of our Nation. I wish them continued health and happiness and success in their endeavors as American ambassadors in an increasingly challenging world.

HONORING MICHAEL A. CONDUFF, DENTON CITY MANAGER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael A. Conduff, retiring City Manager of Denton, Texas, for his outstanding service to the local community for the past four and a half years.

Since Mr. Conduff assumed the duties as Denton's City Manager on May 14, 2001, the City was able to accomplish many goals including the completion of the Downtown improvements, implementation of computer aided dispatch in the police department, and the opening of the North Branch Library and the Water Works Park. Mr. Conduff was also implemental in multiple economic development projects including Denton Crossing, Presbyterian Hospital of Denton, improvements to Denton Regional Medical Center, and Peterbilt expansion. Additionally, Mr. Conduff has won over 130 awards, including 3 Texas Municipal

League Awards and personal awards, during his time in Denton.

Mr. Conduff earned his B.S. in civil engineering at the University of New Hampshire, graduating Cum Laude. His M.B.A. is from Pittsburg State University. He is also a charter graduate of the Carver Policy Governance® Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the International Policy Governance® Association. Prior to assuming the City Manager's position in Denton, Mr. Conduff was a nine-year City Manager of Bryan, Texas. Before he came to Texas, Mike served as City Manager in Manhattan, Kansas, home of Kansas State University, for five years. He also served as City Manager of Pittsburg, Kansas, home of Pittsburg State University, for five and a half years. Prior to his city managerial roles, Mr. Conduff was City Engineer for Pittsburg.

I am honored to today to recognize the exceptional service of Mr. Michael A. Conduff as Denton City Manager. His leadership and dedication to the improvement and development of Denton, Texas deserves the highest thanks and recognition. Michael, his wife, and grandchildren have my best wishes and prayers for the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the House-passed version of the legislation, this conference report is not perfect. But it is not so bad as to require opposition, and does provide funding for many important purposes. Therefore, I will vote for it.

The conference report includes a number of items of particular importance to Colorado.

In particular, I am very pleased that it includes funding for the final stages of work connected with the cleanup of Rocky Flats.

Once home to a nuclear weapons factory, Rocky Flats is located just 15 miles from downtown Denver. At one time it was the location of large quantities of nuclear materials and other hazardous substances—and because of its proximity to our state's major metropolitan area, timely and effective cleanup and closure of the site has been a matter of top priority for all Coloradans.

Just last month, the overall contractor for the cleanup, Kaiser-Hill, announced that their work was done. The Department of Energy must still confirm that, and there still must be a formal decision by state and federal regulators. But those who knew Rocky Flats as it was can hardly recognize the site as it is today.

The cleanup of Rocky Flats is a major achievement for which we can all be proud. I want to especially note the efforts of the workers and their dedication not only the security of this country, but their dedication to performing a safe and extensive demolition and decommissioning.

This was very complicated and difficult work involving dangerous and toxic materials. The

fact that it was done decades ahead of predictions and at a cost vastly less than expected is a testament to all those involved, and I think we have an obligation to make sure that workers' benefits are carried forward and that they are properly compensated for work-related health problems.

Getting to this day has been long and difficult. But the Colorado congressional delegation worked hand-in-glove with the local communities, DOE, and the contractors to work through the obstacles and I think lessons learned at Rocky Flats can be applied to the cleanup challenges at other nuclear-weapons sites.

I look forward to the next major chapter—transfer of most of the Rocky Flats site to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. But getting that chapter properly written will require some additional steps, notably including the acquisition of mineral rights at Rocky Flats that are now in non-Federal ownership.

To facilitate that acquisition, I have introduced legislation (H.R. 4181) to authorize DOE to expend funds to acquire some or all of the minerals, including \$10 million from its appropriation for fiscal year 2006. The bill also provides that DOE's expenditure of \$10 million for that purpose (or, under certain circumstances, an appropriate payment to specified Federal and State officials for acquisition of Rocky Flats minerals or for habitat restoration at Rocky Flats) will satisfy certain claims the State of Colorado might bring for natural resources damages resulting from past discharges of hazardous substances at or from Rocky Flats).

The bill also would give the Interior Department two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—namely: by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and/or by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same state—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

Other parts of the conference report are also important for Colorado, including the funding for several Bureau of Reclamation projects in our State, including the Colorado-Big Thompson and the Fryingpan-Arkansas projects as well as the ongoing construction of the Animas-La Plata project.

Similarly, the conference report provides needed funds for operation and maintenance of a number of reservoirs operated by the Army's Corps of Engineers as well as for other Corps activities in Colorado, including aquatic restoration work involving Goose Creek and Lower Boulder Creek.

I am very glad to note that the bill will provide funds for completing construction of the new science and technology facility at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

I find it highly ironic, however, that the new NREL facility comes at the expense of the very renewable energy research and development programs that would be conducted within it. It's conceivable that we'll have new buildings but nothing to fill them with—no scientists or other NREL personnel, since many of them will lose their jobs due to deep cuts in program funding.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I have

worked for years to increase—or at a minimum, hold steady—funding for DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development programs.

Given the finite supply and high prices of fossil fuels and increasing global demand, investing in clean energy is more important than ever. DOE's renewable energy programs are vital to our Nation's interests, helping provide strategies and tools to address the environmental challenges we will face in the coming decades. These programs are also helping to reduce our reliance on oil imports, thereby strengthening our national security, and also creating hundreds of new domestic businesses, supporting thousands of American jobs, and opening new international markets for American goods and services.

But for our investment in these technologies to payoff, our efforts must be sustained over the long term. This conference report does not do that.

Though some of the renewable energy accounts are increased from FY05 levels, it is an illusion. The EERE accounts are earmarked so heavily that there is little left of the core programs.

While the biomass line is up slightly from FY05, fully 53 percent of the FY06 funds are earmarked. Wind is slightly reduced from FY05 levels, but this is after repeated cuts—11 percent in just three years. Factoring in earmarks makes the situation even worse. The bill earmarks fully a third of the funds appropriated for wind energy for Member projects. Solar energy funding is down from FY05 levels, and also earmarked—17 percent of the total goes to Member projects.

I am concerned that year by year, DOE's renewable energy and energy efficiency programs seem to be losing—through gradual cuts, shifts of more EERE dollars to hydrogen and fuel cells and out of core renewables technologies, and earmarks.

These cuts will only increase U.S. vulnerability to energy supply disruptions, worsen fuel price volatility, and cause higher energy prices overall unnecessarily, and are especially ill-advised at a time when the need for a secure, domestic energy supply is so crucial.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I regret that they could not adequately address all our needs, in Colorado or elsewhere, I appreciate what the conferees have done and urge the House to pass this important conference report.

SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1751) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes:

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to speak in support of the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, legislation which strengthens criminal penalties for crimes

against United States judges, federal law enforcement officers and federally funded public safety officers.

Also included in this bill is an important provision from legislation I authored, H.R. 3833—the National Guard Emergency Protection Act, which increases federal protection to our National Guardsmen.

This measure was offered as a result of assaults against members of the National Guard while they were engaged in rescue and law enforcement operations in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, I found that our National Guardsmen are not protected by federal law if they are assaulted or killed in the line of duty while serving States during Presidentially declared disasters and emergencies. My bill, now included in the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, extends the same penalties to those who attack both federal and non-federalized members of the Armed Services.

I would like to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER and his staff for working with me to ensure that our National Guardsmen have the further support of the Federal Government.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP MCGOLDRICK

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Philip McGoldrick, of Macon, Georgia, for his efforts on behalf of Middle Georgia's children and for his long record of community service and activism.

In September, for its successful efforts to bring the joy of Christmas to underprivileged children in Middle Georgia, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation recognized Macon's Toys for Tots campaign as the 2004 Local Community Organization of the year. With 481 local community campaigns nationwide, this is a tremendous achievement and a great honor for Middle Georgia. As the coordinator for Macon's Toys for Tots campaign, Philip also received a commendation from the United States Marine Corps for his exemplary administration, his tireless dedication, and his commitment to helping children in need.

When I learned of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and seeing first hand the nationwide outpouring of support and assistance, it really struck home for me exactly how much a small number of caring people—or even one dedicated volunteer—can do to reduce hardship and suffering. In Middle Georgia, we are extremely lucky to have many kind souls willing to help and support those less fortunate than themselves.

Mr. Speaker, one of Middle Georgia's kindest, most caring souls is Philip McGoldrick, and I am proud to call him my friend. Philip's recent success with Toys for Tots is not an isolated event. He is active in all manner of civic organizations which do tremendous good for the Middle Georgia Community. Philip is a charter member of CrimeStoppers and the chairman of the Macon Sports Hall of Fame, and he founded Macon Youth Day, just to name a few of the many hats he wears.